A/64/29

United Nations

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

24 July 2009

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-fourth Session
Supplement No. 29

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Contents

Chapter		*Paragraphs*	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–5	1
II.	Work of the Committee in 2009	6	3
	A. Agenda of the Committee	6	3
	B. Report of the Chairman of the Committee	7	3
	C. Recommendations	8	5
	D. Adoption of the report of the Committee	9–11	5

Chapter I

Introduction

1. By its resolution 62/14, the General Assembly, having taken note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/62/29),[1] requested the Chairman of the Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Committee held its formal session (453rd meeting) on 24 July 2009 at United Nations Headquarters. The Chairman also held a number of consultations and meetings during 2009.

3. At the 453rd meeting, the following delegations made statements in the general discussion under agenda item 3: Pakistan, China, Indonesia and Mozambique.

4. The Committee is composed of the following States:

(a) 43 members:

Australia
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Germany
Greece
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritius
Mozambique
Netherlands
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

(b) Observers:

Nepal
South Africa
Sweden

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 29* (A/62/29).

5. The elected officers of the Committee were as follows:

Chair:

H.M.G.S. Palihakkara (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairs:

Sarah Clair de Zoeten (Australia)
Andreano Erwin (Indonesia)
Antonio Macheve (Mozambique)

Rapporteur:

Modeste Randrianarivony (Madagascar)

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Chapter II
Work of the Committee in 2009

A. Agenda of the Committee

6. At its 453rd meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda as contained in document A/AC.159/L.139, which read as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the Chairman of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 62/14.
4. Adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.
5. Other matters.

B. Report of the Chairman of the Committee

7. At its 453rd meeting, the Committee considered agenda item 3 concerning the report of the Chairman of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 62/14. The Chairman made the following comprehensive statement on his consultations:

> "Following the Committee's last report to the General Assembly, at its sixty-second session, in 2007, the Assembly, in its resolution 62/14, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace", requested the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to report through the Committee to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session. We are meeting here pursuant to that mandate. My remarks today are derived from the consultations that ensued from the same mandate. As we all know, the Committee has made continuing efforts to reach agreement on ways forward in implementing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. Those efforts were based on the commonly shared conviction that the objectives of the Declaration and their desirability in the context of ensuring peace and security in the region and beyond remain worthwhile goals. However, the changing security and geopolitical scenario continues to bring forth more issues and greater complexities for the Member States to consider and reflect upon. These complexities and the profound global changes have no doubt overtaken the context in which the 1971 Declaration was conceived. However, the vision that underlies the Declaration continues to be a desirable framework that the region can benefit from in order to ensure the prosperity and well-being of the people of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean as they look forward to an era of dynamic growth in purchasing power and economic development.
>
> "It is indeed prudent and pragmatic to recognize that, since the time of the Declaration, the region and in fact the world have seen deep-going changes in the strategic and security landscape. The so-called cold war has ended. Some armament issues have been resolved. Other disarmament work remains work in progress. New challenges in arms trade and disarmament efforts have

come to the fore, whilst non-State players, including terrorist groups and transnational subversive elements, have emerged as threats to peace and security within and between States. All this impacts on the area of the Indian Ocean as much as it does on other parts of the world. It is precisely because of these diminishing concerns of the past and emerging concerns of the present that the objectives of the Declaration, such as stability, peace and security, remain relevant. So too are the calls for new approaches and new modalities in order to bring to fruition an era of cooperation, harmony and mutual benefit for the greater good of all the people and the States in the region. It appears from the sentiments of the Member States that they share this broad vision and objectives. The Indian Ocean region has seen positive developments in the recent past, particularly ... the area of socio-economic development, growing regional cooperation in economic, technical and scientific disciplines and, above all, exponential growth in people-to-people contacts. Many countries in the region have registered phenomenal economic growth, have even managed to withstand the global financial and economic crises and have provided much needed stability to the global system affected by a multiplicity of downturns recently. Nevertheless, new and disturbing threats, such as terrorism, illicit arms trafficking, transnational crimes and many other regional and international manifestations of new security concerns, seem to work against those positive trends evident in the region. These threats are not peculiar to the Indian Ocean region and it has not been possible to address them without active cooperation from the extraregional players, both State and non-State, who are also affected in varying degrees by similar threats and concerns. Disarmament and arms control issues have manifested themselves in new dimensions, while progress in arms control has not been noteworthy.

"In view of these complex and evolving issues, we have to bear in mind that the Ad Hoc Committee has a continuing role to play in deliberating on these changing factors on the basis of broad-based participation open to all Member States within the region and beyond. Since the Committee itself has not been able to develop common ground for a way forward in any functional sense, to implement the Declaration, it is time for the Committee to be open to considering new approaches. The scope of the work of the Committee, including the revision of the Declaration in a pragmatic manner that corresponds to the current challenges and realities in the region, may be an element which the Member States would wish to reflect on.

"It would, therefore, be time for the members of the Committee to put forward views as to how such new approaches could be developed and how recommendations could be made to the General Assembly regarding a way forward.

"Based on the views expressed by the Member States in consultations as well as within the framework of this Committee, the Bureau should, therefore, continue the consultative processes, for which additional time will be needed as there is no provision for another meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee. If the members of the Committee so wish, they may consider mandating the Bureau of the Committee to put forward preliminary ideas for possible new approaches.

"In the circumstances, the Ad Hoc Committee may consider recommending that the General Assembly allow additional time for consultations by the Chairman and the Bureau with a view to developing ideas for new approaches on a way forward on the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace."

C. Recommendations

8. The Chairman was requested to continue informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

D. Adoption of the report of the Committee

9. At its 453rd meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee.

10. At the same meeting, the Chairman informed the members of the Committee of his intention to hold informal consultations concerning the text of the draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted its report.

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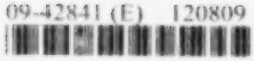

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